

**Testimony of Kia D. Floyd
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**Before the Committee on Labor and Public Employees
Hartford, CT
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Good Afternoon Senator Prague, Representative Ryan and other members of the Committee. My name is Kia Floyd and I am an Assistant Counsel for Labor & Employment matters for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents more than 10,000 companies throughout the state of Connecticut, ranging from large corporations to small businesses. The vast majority of our companies employ fifty (50) or fewer employees, many of whom make up Connecticut's workforce. I am here today to speak on behalf of all of our member companies. CBIA generally supports any labor and employment related legislation that does not increase the costs of doing business in the state or unreasonably increase administrative burdens on employers in dealing with employment and workplace issues. In reviewing H.B. 5702, we cannot determine if it is would be harmful or beneficial to businesses in the state, therefore we must oppose its enactment.

H.B. 5702 AAC Safe Workplaces (Opposed)

H.B. 5702 would require the state of Connecticut to develop a plan for encouraging employers to replace toxic chemicals used in the workplace with safe alternatives. However, this legislation does not specify what which chemicals would be considered "toxic," nor does it define what constitutes a "safe alternative." Many businesses throughout the state of Connecticut employ the use of chemicals in manufacturing products and in their general business operations. Depending on the nature of the business, the use of chemicals may be integral to the business' operation such as in the case of chemical companies, or manufacturing plants. The use of many chemicals in the workplace are regulated by a variety of governmental agencies including but not limited to the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the state Department of Environmental Protection, the state Department of Public Health and others. All of those agencies are charged with ensuring the safe and appropriate use of chemicals in the workplace. Without statutory language indicating a problem or issue with the use of specific chemicals in the workplace, H.B. 5702 appears to be duplicative of existing law and is therefore unnecessary. Moreover, because the legislation does not provide any information on which businesses or industries would fall within its purview, we cannot determine its full impact on Connecticut businesses. Therefore, we must oppose H.B. 5702.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment today.